



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
*1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

June 12, 2002

TO: Washington State Board of Health
FROM: Carl Osaki, WSBOH Member
RE: School Indoor Air Quality Follow-Up

Background and summary:

On March 13, 2002 and May 8, 2002 the Board heard updates from the Department of Health on its Indoor Air Quality Program and activities in response to school indoor air quality (IAQ) complaints. The Board received information, recommendations, and testimony from parents, teachers, and students concerned about school IAQ issues.

In response to Board direction from the March meeting, Board staff and I met on April 25, 2002 with representatives from DOH, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington Department of Labor and Industries, Public Health-Seattle & King County, Kittitas County Health Department, Washington State Environmental Health Association, and citizens. It was decided that an already existing group, the Healthy Schools Task Force, might be the appropriate group to develop and recommend policy options to the Board.

At the April 30, 2002 and May 29, 2002 Healthy Schools Task Force meetings, task force members focused on systemwide approaches to addressing school environmental health and safety issues. Members agreed that making policy recommendations is a high priority for the task force, and that these recommendations should be presented to the Board when completed this fall.

Members of the Healthy Schools Task Force represent many of the stakeholders able to make comprehensive recommendations to the Board, but not all. Additional stakeholders will be consulted on the task force's recommendations and their perspectives included in recommendations brought to the Board. (Please see attached list of Healthy Schools Task Force members.)

In response to Board direction from the May meeting, Board staff has begun contacting school administrators and local health department staff involved in responding to school indoor air issues at Cle Elum, Artondale, Oak Harbor, and Moses Lake. Board staff asked the following questions to better understand the criteria for different responses to school indoor air quality concerns:

1. The source, number and type of complaints
2. Inspection and/or testing results
3. What decisions were made and actions taken?

4. Who is involved in decision-making and actions?
5. What individuals or bodies have authority to make decisions and take action?
6. What reasoning and criteria are decisions and actions based on?
7. What follow up actions have been taken?
8. What has determined resolution of the school indoor air quality issues?
9. What recommendations do they have for improving school and public health systems' responses to IAQ issues?

Recommended Board Motion:

No action recommended at this time. Schedule presentation of recommendations from Healthy Schools Task Force this fall. Board discussion and action anticipated following this presentation.

Attachment